

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are currently pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

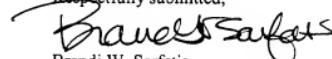
Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,647,408 ("the '408 patent"). In response, enclosed herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.321(c) disclaiming the terminal part of any patent granted on the present application that would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term of the '408 patent. In view of the fact that claims 1-24 are indicated as being otherwise allowable, Applicants submit that the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer places this application in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is clear from the foregoing that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and an early formal notice of allowance of all of the pending claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via EFS-Web on

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